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E.O. 11652: ADS DECLASS MAY 15, 1976

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: EXCHANGES:CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS (CU/ARTS):
SOFT ROCK GROUP FOR 1976

REF: A) HESS/CARSTONES TELECON AUGUST 25; B) STATE 196315;
C) MOSCOW 11113

1. ON AUGUST 20, SOFT ROCK GROUP "AMERICA" PRESENTED APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR AND TEN MINUTE CONCERT BEFORE NEAR CAPACITY AUDIENCE AT CAPITAL CENTER. HARMONY AND VOCAL ARRANGEMENTS MUCH IN TRADITION OF CROSBY, STILLS, NASH & YOUNG AND SIMON AND GARFUNKEL OF LATE 60'S. COMBINATION MUSIC, DRESS, STAGE MANNERISMS AND GROOMING WOULD PRESENT POSITIVE AND FAVORABLE IMAGE TO SOVS.

2. COMPANY AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAMMING FOUR WEEK PERIOD BEGINNING O/A APRIL 1, 1976. (BECAUSE OF RECORDING DATES, GROUP NOT AVAILABLE IN FEBRUARY). COMPANY CONSISTS OF FIF-
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TEEN PLUS TWO UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS; THREE VOCALISTS, TWO

INSTRUMENTALISTS, TECHNICIANS (SOUND, LIGHT, AND STAGE), AND COMPANY, ROAD AND STAGE MANAGERS. WIVES OF TWO AMERICAN VOCALISTS ACCOMPANYING, BRINGING TOTAL TO SEVENTEEN.

3. COMPANY CARRIES MAXIMUM SIXTEEN THOUSAND POUNDS TOURING PROPERTIES INCLUDING COSTUMES, GELS, PA SYSTEM, AMPLIFIERS SOUND SYSTEM, PLATFORM OR RISER FOR DRUMS, AND MALESTRON (SIMILAR TO SYNTHESIZER) AND INSTRUMENTS. LATTER INCLUDES ACOUSTIC GUITARS, (RHYTHM, LEAD, BASS) AND DRUMS (5-CONGO). PIANO TUNED A-440 CONCERT PITCH REQUIRED. LIGHTS TO BE FURNISHED BY SOVS.

4. WEIGHT OF PROPERTIES WOULD BE REDUCED, PARTICULARLY AMPLIFICATION AND PA SYSTEM, SINCE FOR SOVIET UNION COMPANY PREPARED PERFORM IN HALLS WITH SEATING CAPACITY RANGING FROM 5,000-10,000 PEOPLE, AND PREFERRABLY FORMER.

5. VOLUME OF PROPERTIES THREE THOUSAND CUBIC FEET. LARGEST PIECES ARE PLATFORM OR RISER WHICH FOLDS UP TO 4 FEET HIGH BY 3 FEET WIDE BY 2 AND ONE HALF FEET DEEP. RE PLATFORM, WE HOPEFUL SOVS ABLE FURNISH THIS PERMITTING ADDITIONAL REDUCTION IN WEIGHT OF PROPERTIES. REDUCTION CAN BE BEST DETERMINED BY ADVANCE TEAM VISIT. IF GROUP ACCEPTED, WE CAN SCHEDULE VISIT FOR DECEMBER, A PERIOD MOST SUITABLE FOR COMPANY MANAGEMENT.

6. USIA CURRENTLY TRANSFERRING VTR (FURNISHED BY CENTER) TO ONE TO ONE HALF INCH TAPE FOR EARLIEST TRANSMITTAL. VISUAL TECHNICALLY VERY GOOD; SOUND QUALITY NOT WHAT IT SHOULD BE BECAUSE TAPE COVERS LIVE PERFORMANCE WHICH INTENDED TO BE CROWD PLEASER. SUGGEST EMB REVIEW VTR PRIOR SHOWING TO GOSK IN ORDER DETERMINE WHETHER EMB MIGHT WISH SUPPLEMENT TAPE WITH RECORDS DURING SHOWING. PLAN FORWARD VTR, PROMO INCLUDING PHOTOS AND RECORDS WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 2, IF NOT EARLIER.

7. AFTER REVIEW OF ABOVE MATERIALS, APPRECIATE NOTIFICATION OF POSITIVE INTEREST FROM EMB AND INITIAL REACTION FROM GOSK, ASAP. DEPT PREPARED NOMINATE GROUP IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER SEEKING SOV ACCEPTANCE OF AMERICA NO LATER THAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FIRST WEEK OF OCTOBER.

8. AS PREVIOUSLY INDICATED, AMERICA IS LAST ALTERNATIVE IN SOFT ROCK CATEGORY UNDER CURRENT AGREEMENT. VIEW OUR MUTUAL INTEREST TO BROADEN RANGE OF AMERICAN PAG'S FOR SOVIET UNION, WE HOPEFUL SOV INTEREST REAINS HIGH IN THIS GENRE TO ALLOW FOR EARLIEST ACCEPTANCE. FYI ONLY: WHILE IT HAS FAVORABLE RATING FROM MUSIC ADVISORY PANEL MEMBERS,

EARTH, WIND, AND FIRE IS SOUL-ORIENTED GROUP NOT LIKELY TO
BE ACCEPTED BY SOVIET UNION, END FYI. INGERSOLL

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